Sites across Delaware offer free summer meals to children

Districts, charter schools and community partners across the state are providing free meals to children in their communities so they don't go hungry while school is out.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a federally funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and managed locally by the Delaware Department of Education, targets children in low-income areas so they have healthy meals during the summer. Meals are provided in communities in areas where children gather. No registration or proof of eligibility is required at open meal sites. Any child 18 and under who comes is fed.

In Summer 2018, 760,029 meals and snacks were served at 329 sites throughout the state.

"We know many children rely on the meals they receive in school and still have those food needs during summer break," Secretary of Education Susan Bunting said. "With the partnership of our districts, charter schools and community organizations, this program gives children access to nutritious food during the summer in their own communities."

To find a Summer Food Service Program location in your community and its dates of operation, call 211 or visit https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks.

If you are interested in being a summer meal site, contact the Delaware Department of Education Nutrition Programs Office at (302) 857-3356.

Note to the media: You are invited to cover any of the following kickoff events:

- 11 a.m., Friday, June 14, Seaford Library, 600 N. Market St. Extension, Seaford
- 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 19, Eisenberg Elementary School, 27 Landers Lane, New Castle
- 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 20, Greater Dover Boys & Girls Club, 1683 New Burton Road, Dover

Media Contact: Alison May, <u>alison.may@doe.k12.de.us</u>, 302-735-4006